

## Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-04

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /064 W

----- 037981

R 271330Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9824

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 1635

SECDEF FOR DIA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGPS: PINS, BL

SUBJ: BRIG GEN AYOROA STATES INNOCENCE AND REQUESTS A MILITARY  
HEARING

REF: A. LA PAZ 1518 B. IR NO 6 808 0015 76, R 231600Z FEB 76

C. LA PAZ 988

1. IN AN OPEN LETTER TO THE COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE BOLIVIAN  
ARMY, RECENTLY RETIRED BRIG GEN JUAN AYOROA Y AYOROA PROTESTED  
HIS INNOCENCE OF PLOTTING TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT, REAFFIRMED  
HIS HAVING CRITICIZED CERTAIN GOB POLICIES AND ASKED FOR A MILI-  
TARY HEARING TO CLEAR HIS NAME. STILL A FUGITIVE FROM GOB  
SECURITY FORCES (REF A), GENERAL AYOROA'S LETTER DATED FEB-  
RUARY 24 WAS PUBLISHED IN THE LA PAZ MORNING DAILY PRESENCIA  
THE FOLLOWING DAY.

2. ACCORDING TO FEBRUARY 26 PRESS REPORTS, COMMANDING GENERAL  
OF THE ARMY RAUL ALVAREZ PENARANDA STATED THAT GEN AYOROA'S  
LETTER WOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED BY ANY MILITARY GROUP. GEN ALVEREZ  
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CRITICIZED AYOROA FOR HAVING SENT HIS LETTER TO THE PRESS AND

STATED THAT IN ANY EVENT AYOROA'S PETITION WAS MISDIRECTED. INTERIOR MINISTER, COL JUAN PEREDA ASBUN COMMENTED THAT HE TOOK NO NOTICE OF THE FACT THAT QUOTE A CONSPIRATOR HAS DECLARED PUBLICLY WHAT HE IS DOING UNQUOTE. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS PEREDA NOTED THAT THE LETTER INDICATED AYOROA REMAINED IN THE COUNTRY.

3. COMMENT. EMBASSY DOES NOT KNOW OF ANY LINKS BETWEEN THE AYOROA GROUP AND RECENT UNIVERSITY AND LABOR UNREST. (NOR HAS THE GOB PROVIDED ANY SUCH EVIDENCE.) HOWEVER, AS REF MESSAGES INDICATED; THE "AYOROA CLAN" MAINTAINED SOME INDEPENDENCE FROM BANZER AND HIS SUPPORTERS AND THE GENERAL HAD CRITICIZED BANZER'S ACCEPTANCE IN PRINCIPLE OF A TERRITORIAL EXCHANGE FOR A SEA OUTLET. PRESIDENT BANZER MAY HAVE DECIDED THAT THE AYOROA GROUP CONSTITUTED A POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS ALTERNATIVE TO HIS REGIME. THE GOB FACES SOME DISCONTENT AND UNREST IN THE UNIVERSITY AND LABOR SECTOR. MEANWHILE IT IS TRYING TO PRESENT AN IMPRESSION OF STRONG NATIONAL SUPPORT FOR ITS SEA OUTLET PROPOSALS. THE POSSIBILITY THAT VARIOUS OPPOSITION GROUPS MIGHT COALESCE AROUND THE SEA OUTLET ISSUE PROBABLY PROMPTED THE MOVE AGAINST THE AYOROAS.

4. USDAO COMMENT: THIS SORT OF OPEN LETTER HAS BEEN USED DURING THE PAST THREE YEARS; HOWEVER, SUCH LETTERS GENERALLY EXCORIATE THE GOVERNMENT AND ARE NOT SIGNED, WHEREAS JUAN AYOROA'S LETTER IS LESS A POLEMIC THAN A PLEA FOR A FAIR HEARING. SUCH A PLEA MAY WELL BE JUSTIFIED, SINCE IT IS NOT YET CERTAIN WHETHER JUAN AYOROA WAS INDEED PLOTTING, OR WHETHER THE EVENTS OF THE PAST FEW WEEKS INVOLVING THE AYOROA FAMILY HAVE BEEN MERELY A BANZER GAMBIT TO DISPOSE CONVENIENTLY OF A POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS FUTURE GROUP OF MILITARY/POLITICAL ELEMENTS. HOWEVER, ARMY CMDR MAJ/GEN ALVAREZ IS CORRECT IN STATING THAT SUCH A LETTER SHOULD HAVE BEEN DIRECTED TO HIM THROUGH INSTITUTIONAL CHANNELS. STEDMAN

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PINS, BL, (AYOROA Y AYOROA, JUAN)  
**To:** STATE DOD  
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